Setting up of Food Security Tribunals

957. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether to ensure a foolproof mechanism to enforce accountability under the proposed Food Security Act (FSA), Government has decided to set up Food Security Tribunals at all levels of governance;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether to evolve a clear methodology to accountability in implementation of FSA, the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has given their views; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) As announced by the Hon'ble President of India in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act.

At present various aspects of the proposed law, including mechanism to enforce accountability through setting up of Food Security Tribunals etc., are under examination in consultation with State/Union Territory Government and various Central Ministries.

Measures to check price rise of sugar

958. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has adopted a slew of measures to check rising sugar prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent those measures have proved effective;

(c) whether Government has also allowed companies to import raw sugar to meet the demand and also to contain price rise of sugar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stocks of sugar and to moderate prices of sugar in the open market. Details of these measures are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). As a result of these measures, the ex-mill prices of sugar remained subdued upto the month of July, 2009. However, indications that sugar production in

the current sugar season 2009-10 would also be substantially lower than the overall consumption requirement of sugar in the country in view of deficient and irregular rainfall during current year, have pushed up sugar prices.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed companies/sugar mills to import duty-free raw sugar. The details are indicated in the Statement enclosed in reference to part (a) and (b) of the Question.

Statement

Measures taken by the Central Government to augment domestic stocks of sugar and to contain sugar prices

- Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills at zero duty upto 30.09.2009.
- Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills, later extended upto 31.03.2010. This has now been further extended upto 31.12.2010 *vide* notification dated 11.11.2009.
- Import of raw sugar was opened to private trade upto 31.03.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis. This has now been further extended upto 31.12.2010 *vide* notification dated 11.11.2009.
- Allowed duty free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tons by 01.08.2009 which was extended upto 30.11.2009. Further, duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has also been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies, upto 30.11.2009. This has now been extended upto 31.3.2010 *vide* notification dated 11.11.2009.
- Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar. The white/refined sugar has been also allowed to be sold at the discretion of the importing organizations, but sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to accelerated releases.
- The levy obligation on sugar factories has been enhanced from 10% to 20% of production *w.e.f.* 01.10.2009 for 2009-10 sugar season only, *vide* notification dated 7th October, 2009.

1.1 Besides augmenting the sugar stocks by permitting import of raw and white/refined sugar in 2008-09 sugar season, the Central Government has imposed stock holding and turnover limits to moderate prices of sugar as follows:—

- Stock-holding and turnover limits on sugar dealers *vide* notification dated 12.03.2009 for a period of four months, and thereafter for another period of six months *i.e.* upto 08.01.2010 *vide* the notification dated 16.7.2009. Further, Khandsari sugar has now been brought under the ambit of stockholding and turnover limit.

- An order has been issued *vide* notification dated 22.08.2009 imposing stockholding limit on large consumers of sugar who are using or consuming more than ten quintals of sugar per month as a raw material for production or consumption or use, stipulating that such bulk consumers shall not hold sugar stock exceeding fifteen days of their requirement. The notification has come into effect from 19.9.2009.

- Futures trade in sugar in domestic exchanges has been suspended *w.e.f.* 27.5.2009 till the end of 2009.

Integrated approach for food and nutrition security

959. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of foodgrains in the last few months have increased manifold in the country and millions of families living in rural areas are unable to afford the same;

(b) if so, whether severe food and nutritional scarcity in the country have affected almost half the children under three years of age and more than one-third of women;

(c) if so, whether any integrated approach has been formulated to achieve food and nutritional security in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) There has been an increase in prices of foodgrain items such as cereals, pulses and sugar. The Government has taken steps to protect poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, coarse grains and kerosene are allocated to State Governments/UTs for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The off take of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been going up. For TPDS, wheat and rice off take have gone up from 296.52 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 to 316.39 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 and 348.45 lakh tonnes in 2008-09. During the period 2009-10 (up to August, 2009), 183.07 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice has been allocated under TPDS.

The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 2002. For wheat it remains at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY.